

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14, 16-22, 24, 26 and 31-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 15 and 25 have been cancelled and claims 1, 16, 31 and 33 have been amended by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-14, 16-22, 24, 26, 32 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Saltanov et al.; and claims 15, 25, 31 and 33 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, claims 1 and 16 have been amended to respectively include the subject matter recited in dependent claims 15 and 25, and claims 31 and 33 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the pending claims are allowable and the rejection of claims 1-14, 16-22, 24, 26, 32 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Saltanov et al. is moot.

Further, it is respectfully requested this Amendment be entered as it places the application in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

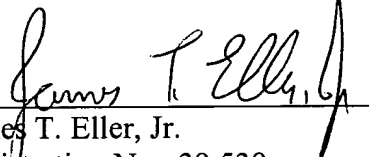
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mr. David A. Bilodeau (Reg. No. 42,325) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: ^{DAB} July 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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